
September 6–7, 2007

Ensuring the appropriate use of imaging services

ISSUE: Technological progress in diagnostic imaging over the past years, and its promise for improving diagnosis, treatments, and health outcomes are impressive. In addition, improvements in technology have made those services available outside the hospital in settings such as imaging centers and doctors' offices—with concomitant improvements in convenience for patients. However, there has been rapid and sustained growth in the volume of imaging services for Medicare beneficiaries; and there are concerns about whether some of this growth in volume represents inappropriate use.

KEY POINTS: In this session, we will:

- review the growth of imaging services and explore factors influencing their growth;
- discuss evidence of inappropriate use (underuse, overuse, and misuse); and
- evaluate options to encourage the appropriate use of imaging, such as the development of appropriateness criteria and the use of preauthorization programs by private plans.

ACTION: Commissioners should provide feedback to staff on the content and tone of this paper, and offer guidance for further work on this topic.

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